

Second, producers rely on the USDA as much as consumers do. It's an important agency, and we all want to see it succeed. Anyone who cares about food safety should be prepared to help make USDA inspections a higher federal budget priority. The same goes for state inspectors.

The agency should be driven by sound science, not politics. Its Food Safety Inspection Service should be given the resources and precise guidelines to upgrade its testing so inspectors can more quickly pinpoint the sources of pathogens and react with consistency. They need more money for training, too.

Third, the industry should initiate implementation of pathogen-killing procedures.

Several well-researched measures are proven effective such as live-cattle management at feedlots, washing carcasses with steam or acidic sodium chlorite, and irradiation. America's top agriculture colleges, including CSU, have studied this to death. If the industry won't lead on this, government should.

Fourth, consumers are ultimately responsible for food safety. No amount of regulation and inspection will help anyone who ignores packaging dates, improperly handles meat, eats it raw, or worse, feeds undercooked product to their kids.

Fifth, there is no such thing as a "zero risk" standard for any perishable food.

This is an impossible goal, a hoax perpetrated by four principle groups of people—those who work for the government, plaintiffs' lawyers, developers who want to buy their neighbors' ranches and vegetarians offended by others who enjoy a good steak. There will never be a regulatory body large enough to inspect every cut of beef, stalk every distributor or police every kitchen.

Finally, if God didn't intend for us to eat animals, He wouldn't have made them out of meat. He also made us smart enough to figure out how to eat them both cheaply and safely.

CONGRATULATING

GLAXOSMITHKLINE FOR ITS EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. FATTAH. I rise today to mark an historic milestone on the road to the elimination of a devastating disease of the developing world, lymphatic filariasis.

The global eradication of a disease has been accomplished only once in history, with the elimination of naturally occurring smallpox.

Public health officials are eager to replicate that success. Yet despite the huge advances in our understanding of diseases and their mechanisms, international experts believe that there are still very few major diseases that can be deemed eradicable by existing technology. The World Health Organization (WHO) is currently targeting seven diseases or disorders for elimination or eradication. They are: Guinea worm (dracunculiasis), polio, leprosy, neonatal tetanus, Chagas disease, iodine deficiency disorders, and lymphatic filariasis. Today, I rise to focus on the parasitic disease lymphatic filariasis, or LF.

LF is an ancient scourge that has disabled and disfigured people for thousands of years. Transmitted by mosquitoes, LF is caused by thread-like worms that infect the human lymphatic system, leading to permanent damage to the lymphatic and renal systems. LF gives rise to a condition known as elephantiasis which leads to the development of grotesque, chronic swelling of the legs, genitals and breasts, leading to lifelong social and physical disabilities. LF is mostly found in the tropical developing world, where it further exacerbates poverty by physically incapacitating people during what should be the most productive years of their lives. Lost productivity caused by the disease costs billions of dollars across the world each year. LF also puts a tremendous strain on healthcare systems in the developing world. In addition to its economic impact, LF inflicts heavy psycho-social consequences on the individuals who are affected. LF affects around 120 million people, with more than one billion people at risk of infection.

In 1998, the WHO and the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) announced a worldwide collaboration to fight LF. This partnership has now become a global alliance of 35 private and public institutions along with the Ministries of Health in LF endemic countries, all committed to eliminating lymphatic filariasis.

GlaxoSmithKline has its US headquarters in my district in Philadelphia, and over 6,000 Pennsylvanians work for GSK in the search for cures and treatments to disease. GSK makes an anti-parasitic drug called albendazole that is useful in the fight against LF. GSK has committed to donating as many tablets as needed to eliminate lymphatic filariasis. The World Health Organization estimates that GSK will donate up to six billion doses of albendazole before the program is complete, making the GSK albendazole donation program the largest pharmaceutical donation in history.

Today, I am proud to announce that GlaxoSmithKline has produced the one hundred-millionth donated tablet of albendazole for the Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Pro-

gram. This is a milestone achievement in a long road, and I commend GlaxoSmithKline for its commitment to world health. Whether it's in improving access to needed health services, providing affordable vaccines and HIV treatments, or dedicating resources to worthy projects in Pennsylvania, GlaxoSmithKline has shown time and time again its dedication to improving lives locally and globally. I commend GlaxoSmithKline for its success to date in the Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Program, and I wish GSK, the World Health Organization and the rest of their partners every success in the completion of their task.

RECOGNIZING MR. T.J. TAYLOR FOR HIS SERVICE TO BRADFORD

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. T.J. Taylor, whose long record of public service has earned him the title of "Tennessee's Outstanding Older Worker of the Year."

T.J. Taylor has worked with the Bradford Special School District for half a century. He has driven a school bus for the district for 50 years and has served as maintenance supervisor for the past 25 years. His work and presence have helped him gain the love and respect of his co-workers as well as the school district's students, who know him as "Mr. T.J."

Honesty, dedication, the ability to work with others, and being on the job daily are all attributes Mr. T.J. has said are important for a worker of any age but especially for an older worker. His success on the job has proven over the years that he possesses these qualities and knows how best to use them to benefit the people around him. School officials say his dedication and skill have saved the small school district thousands of dollars every year.

At 71 years old, Mr. T.J. says he has no plans to retire anytime soon but will continue to work as long as his health will allow him. It is that distinguished service that has earned him this title of "Tennessee's Outstanding Older Worker of the Year," which he calls his proudest moment.

Mr. Speaker, as we seek to recognize those leaders who make our communities better places to live, I point to the distinguished service of Mr. T.J. Taylor. I ask that you and our colleagues applaud him for his strong, long-time commitment and congratulate him on being named "Tennessee's Outstanding Older Worker of the Year."